

Application No. 10/009,294
Amendment dated January 18, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of November 1, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants cancel claims 1-4 and adds new claims 24-36. The Examiner has constructively withdrawn claims 10-21 from consideration.¹ Claims 5-9 and 22-36 are pending in the application, and the Examiner has indicated that claims 22 and 23 are allowed. Applicant amends claims 22 and 23 for clarification purposes. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants amend claims 5 and 7 to place them in independent form, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,865,772 ("George") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,051,747 ("Lindqvist et al."). Claims 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,768,501 ("the '501 patent").

¹ The Applicants note that there is a discrepancy between the Office Action Summary and the Detailed Action, but presumes that the Summary correctly identifies the withdrawn claims since the Examiner acted on the merits of claims 22 and 23 but not claim 10.

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The rejection of these claims is moot in light of the Applicants amendments, which cancel Claims 2-4, and amends claims 6, 8, and 9 to depend from independent claims that the Examiner has indicated are allowable.

New Claims

The Applicant has added new claims that depend upon independent claims that the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Accordingly, these new claims also are in condition for allowance without further examination.

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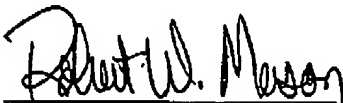
CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for these claims.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 500326.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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